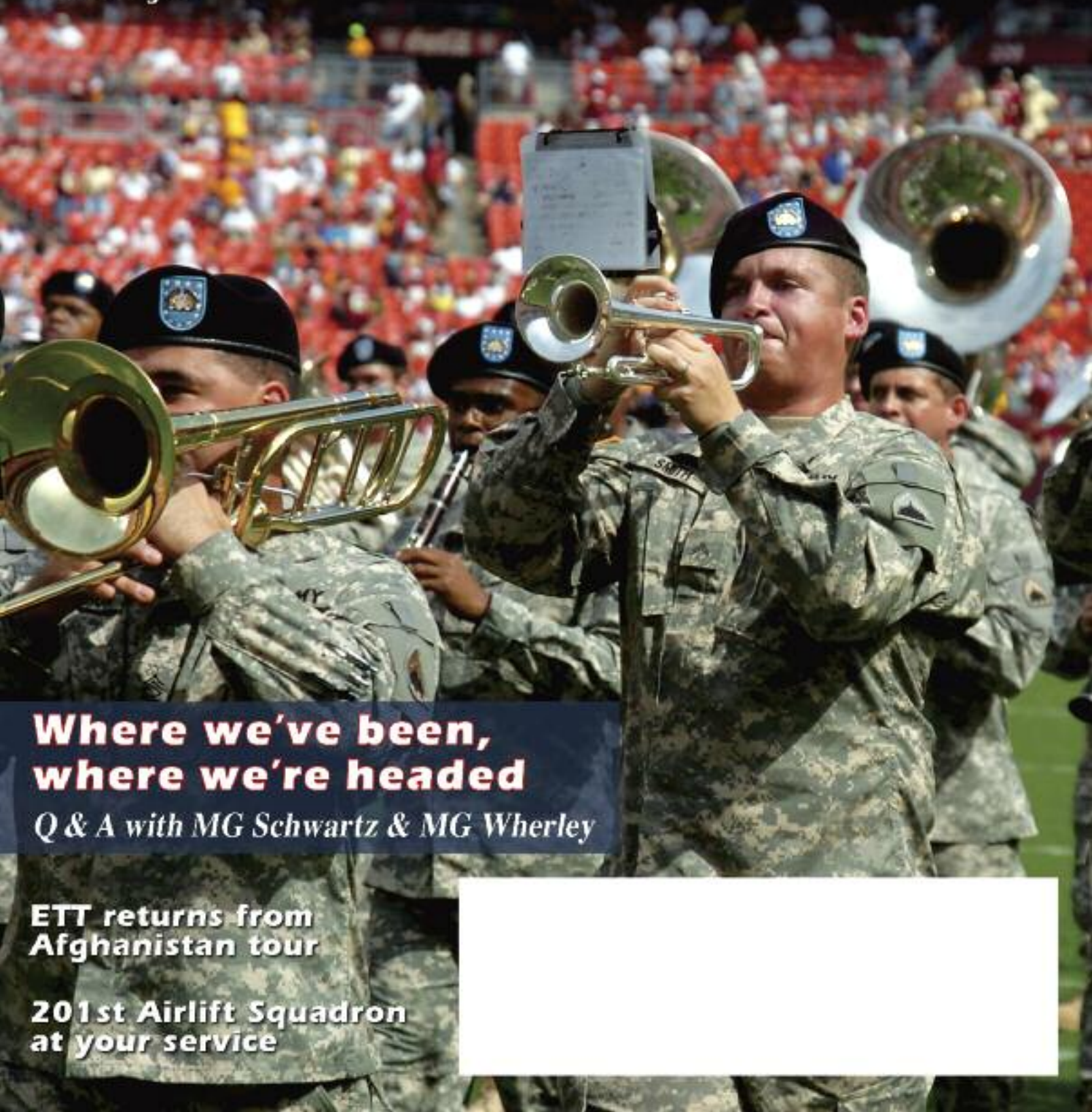


THE VOICE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD - FALL 2008

CAPITAL GUARDIAN

www.dc.ng.mil



**Where we've been,
where we're headed**

Q & A with MG Schwartz & MG Wherley

**ETT returns from
Afghanistan tour**

**201st Airlift Squadron
at your service**

Been Called to Active Duty?

Protect Your Family
with the
Johns Hopkins
US Family Health Plan



AGR or M-Day, enroll your family in the US Family Health Plan!

If you've been called to active duty, you can use TRICARE Prime military health care benefits for defined periods before during, and after your active duty service. Best of all, your family can see civilian doctors by choosing the Johns Hopkins US Family Health Plan, a designated TRICARE Prime provider.

It's a great option because you can use Johns Hopkins primary care doctors at any one of our 17 neighborhood locations. With the Plan you get:

- Complete TRICARE Prime benefits, including primary and specialty medical care
- Private primary care doctors, including pediatricians and Ob/Gyn
- Convenient appointments with evening and/or weekend hours
- Prescription drugs from any Rite Aid with low co-pays
- Maternity, well-baby/well-child care, immunizations, physical exams
- Active duty family members: No premiums, no enrollment fees, no claim forms, no co-pays for physician visits

**For a FREE INFO PACKET and briefing reservations
call 1-800-801-9322 or visit www.hopkinsmedicine.org/usfhp**



www.dc.ng.mil

STAFF

Commanding General
 Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz

Public Affairs Officers
 Lt. Col. Kevin M. McAndrews
 Lt. Col. Brad Benson
 Capt. Byron Coward
 First Lt. Loneshia Reed

Public Affairs Specialist
 Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell

Photography
 Master Sgt. Ray Wilkerson
 Tech. Sgt. Dennis Young
 Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell
 Spec. Robert Albrecht
 Sgt. Khalia Jackson
 Staff Sgt. Gareth Buckland
 Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Wilson
 Tech. Sgt. William Parks



Bob Ulin, Publisher
Susan Harrington, Editor
Gloria Schein, Art Director
Darrell George, Advertising Sales

Toll Free: (866) 562-9300 • Fax: (907) 562-9311
www.AQPublishing.com

Published by AQP Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the District of Columbia National Guard, under written contract with the District of Columbia National Guard. This District of Columbia National Guard magazine is an authorized publication for employees and military members of the District of Columbia National Guard. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the District of Columbia National Guard.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the District of Columbia, DoD, the District of Columbia National Guard, or the Contractor of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the office of Public Affairs, Joint Forces Headquarters - District of Columbia National Guard. All photographs and graphic devices are copyrighted to the District of Columbia National Guard unless otherwise indicated.



Photo: Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell

Honoring those who have served. Cpl. Vicki Golding, the recent "Military Idol" winner and a member of the DC National Guard's 257th Band, sings the National Anthem during opening ceremonies of the NFL-Washington Redskins home opener. The Redskins host DC National Guard Military Appreciation Day to honor those who serve.

Features

Embedded Training Team returns from Afghanistan	3
Training Officer Candidates	4
Presenting the Colors.	6
CG Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz's thoughts on the role and future of the DC National Guard	8
Former CG Maj. Gen. Wherley reflects on his service with DC Guard and his future.	9
201st Airlift Squadron at your service.	12
121st Medical Air Ambulance Co. provides airlift for Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner	14

Departments

Commanding General's Column.	2
News Briefs	16

Fall 2008



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell

Members of the 257th Army Band march onto the field during the half-time show at the Redskins home opener against the New Orleans Saints Sept. 14. The crowd gave tremendous applause to the DC National Guard soldiers that performed during DC National Guard Military Appreciation Day hosted by the Redskins.

Commanding General's Column

The beginning of fall brings to a close an active quarter for the District of Columbia National Guard. We welcomed home the Embedded Training Team, led by Col. Greg Castello, from its tour in Afghanistan, and paid tribute to 1st Lt. Russell Kaufmann of the 275th Military Police Company at a recent gathering of our Family Program in Baltimore.

The return of our soldiers and airmen from active duty around the world is a reminder that we are a nation at war. As citizen-soldiers, it is our mission to maintain a prepared force, capable of providing continued support to the global war on terrorism while preserving the safety of our nation through Homeland Security initiatives. Finally, the DC National Guard is committed to the support of the community through programs such as Youth Challenge and other outreach programs. I am pleased to say that our soldiers and airmen have championed this mission and have continued to serve honorably and heroically, both in their military and civilian lives.

Our Youth Challenge program is continuing, and we have a class that will be starting in January 2009. We need your support. If you know of a high school dropout who might be eligible for the program, make sure you refer the youth to the Youth Challenge Program.

On the civilian side of the house, I am proud to recognize our service members who have excelled in many aspects of their lives. Spc. Cassandra Miller of the 257th Army Band competed in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Women's Roller Sports. In addition, Sgt. Mona Bryant of the 74th Troop Command has recently published a book of poetry encompassing her military career. The accomplishment of these two soldiers exemplifies the dedication to professionalism and perseverance that can be found in all of our soldiers and airmen. Stories like theirs are endless within our ranks.

Militarily, the District of Columbia National Guard continues to train effectively to be a ready and relevant force. From the Joint Mass Casualty Exercise conducted by the Medical Command and the 121st Air Ambulance Co. to the water survival training conducted by the 372nd Military Police Battalion, our soldiers and airmen are prepared to answer the call to duty, responding to the needs of the nation.

As Commanding General, I am dedicated to providing an equipped force, and committed to the development of our service members as a whole. I am excited to see the progression of all of our citizen-soldiers and airmen as they

defend the nation with honor.

I would be remiss if I did not mention an important issue that faces both our soldiers and airmen in the DC National Guard. It has been widely reported that the human toll on our military has been significant. The number of both suicides and attempted suicides among our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan is alarmingly high. The National Guard has always been a close-knit family. We take care of each other, and we have to pay special attention to each other during this time of war service. Prevention is important. If you or someone you know is struggling, ask for help. The Veterans Administration has recently changed its policy to recognize the impact of mild traumatic brain injury. It is common, and the symptoms

include suicidal thoughts, increase of alcohol or drug use, and other personal problems. One way to show we care about each other is to watch for these signs, as we continue to serve our nation in these difficult times of battle.

Suicide is the 11th most frequent cause of death in the U.S. — someone dies from suicide every 16 minutes. Together, Vet Centers and VA Medical Centers stand ready to reach out and help veterans at risk for suicide. Seek professional help if you or someone you know needs it. You can call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention hotline and indicate you are a veteran or know someone else who is that

needs help. You'll be immediately connected to VA suicide prevention and mental health professionals who can help. The suicide hotline is 1-800-273-TALK, or you can go to your local VA Medical Center or Vet Center. Remember, we cannot help unless we know about the issues. This is especially difficult with our part-time soldiers and airmen who we don't see on a day-to-day basis, so please be aware and show you care.

I wish you all the best. I am both humbled and proud to be your Commanding General, and am looking forward to what we will accomplish now and in the days ahead. ★



Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz
Commanding General

*The return of our
soldiers and airmen
from active duty
around the world
is a reminder
that we are
a nation at war.*

Members Welcomed Home from Afghanistan

Embedded Training Team returns from Afghanistan

By Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell

JFHQ-DC Public Affairs Specialist

The DCNG and about 50 family, friends and co-workers welcomed home eight members who were deployed as an Embedded Training Team (ETT) in Afghanistan.

ETTs provide advisory support and direct access to coalition forces to enhance the ability of the Afghan Army to operate independently. The team assists the ANA in tactics, military decision making, counter-insurgency warfare, leadership, team work, communications and urban combat. In addition, the ETTs bring a background of combat arms management and organizational experience.

The welcome home celebration was hosted by the DC National Guard, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Adopt-a-Platoon, a Texas non-profit organization that provides welcome home ceremonies across the nation for personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The ETT arrived by bus with police escort. Cheers and applause rang as the soldiers disembarked at the DC Armory. "I love this Armory," said an elated Maj. Tunstall Wilson, a member of the ETT. "I never thought I would be so happy to see this place."

Serving in a combat zone is dangerous. "The day we left (to come home), we got the news that we lost three Afghani soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Hamm. "They were killed by IED explosives while patrolling the area. We were very fortunate that we were not assigned to that detail. My heart goes out to those we lost and their families."

Sixteen members deployed under the leadership of Col. Greg Castello. The remaining team members are expected to return shortly. The DCNG Family Readiness Program worked hard to ensure the soldiers were able to maintain contact with their family members during the deployment. The Family Readiness Program was also instrumental in getting the arriving troops the "Red Carpet" treatment they deserved. ★



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Herman T. Preston Jr., DC Government Operations, hugs his nephew, Maj. Enrique Young, during the welcome home celebration for the Embedded Training Team.

SEND YOUR CHILD BACK TO SCHOOL



WITH A CONFIDENT SMILE

Avoid complex and costly dental services by taking advantage of the preventive services offered by the **TRICARE Dental Program**.

The **TRICARE Dental Program** is the **ONLY** plan sponsored by the Department of Defense for:

National Guard/Reserve Members
National Guard/Reserve Family Members
Active Duty Family Members

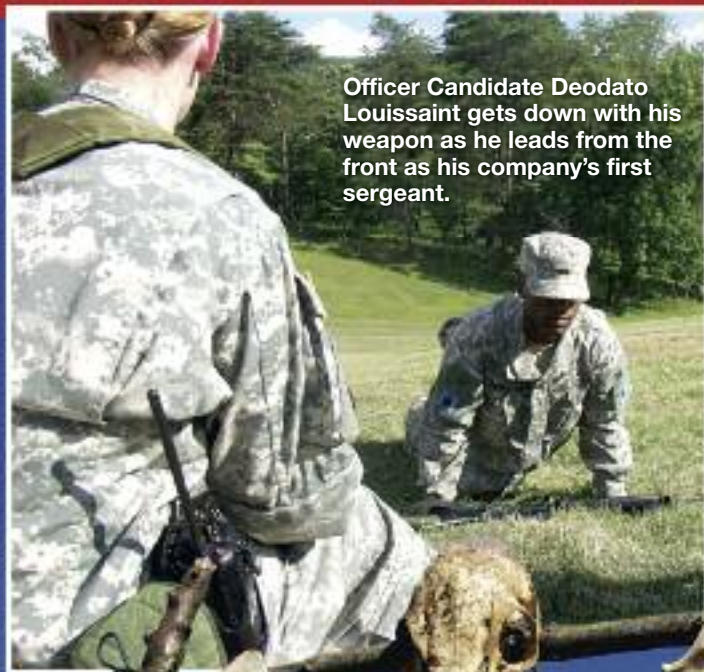
Call for more information
800-866-8499

www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com

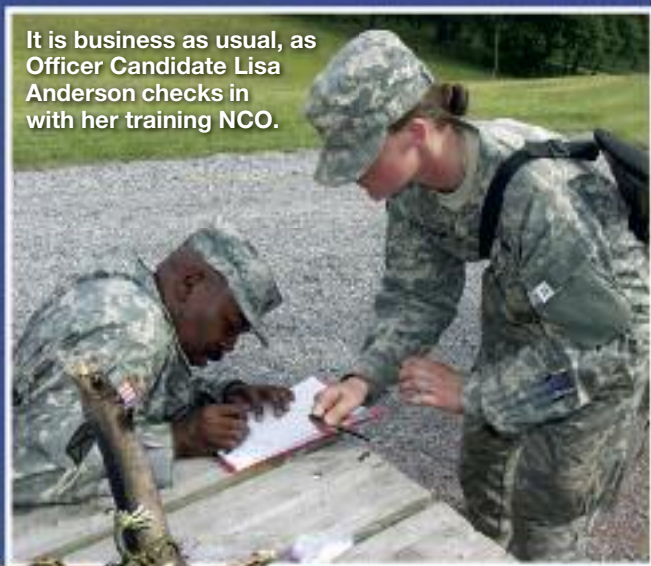


UNITED CONCORDIA

TRAINING OFFICER CAN



Officer Candidate Deodato Louissaint gets down with his weapon as he leads from the front as his company's first sergeant.



It is business as usual, as Officer Candidate Lisa Anderson checks in with her training NCO.

Officer Candidate Deodato Louissaint grimaces as he endures a "smoking" so familiar to all officer candidates.



It is serious business for Officer Candidate Robert Albrecht as he gets ready for what phase one has to offer.



CANDIDATES



The officer candidates take full advantage of their moment of rest with a dip in the river.



Officer Candidate Lisa Anderson stands in formation, ready to receive her mission.



Officer Candidate Robert Albrecht uses his downtime to study a field manual.



Officer Candidate Emilio Betancourt and Officer Candidate Tamara Blassingame stand focused in formation.



Officer Candidate Matthew Larkin "beats the heat" as he conducts morning PT.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell

Photo: Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell

Presenting the Colors



Members of the DC National Guard Joint Honor Guard march onto FEDEX Field to present the colors during the opening home game of the Washington Redskins Sept. 14. The Redskins beat the New Orleans Saints with a fourth quarter touchdown during DC National Guard Appreciation Day. The event included an observance of the coin toss by Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, DCNG Commanding General, a flyover by DC Army Guard aviation forces, a half-time performance by the 257th Army Band and the singing of the national anthem by Cpl. Vicki Golding.

Present and Past Commanding Generals

CG Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz's thoughts on the role and future of the DC National Guard



Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz became Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in June.

By Staff Sgt. Gail Cureton

715th Public Affairs Detachment

Editor's note: Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz serves as the Commanding General, District of Columbia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters. Prior to his current assignment, he was The Adjutant General, Joint Force Headquarters and Commander of the District of Columbia Army National Guard. His military career started when he enlisted in the District of Columbia Army National Guard in 1976. He was commissioned in June 1979, and appointed a Platoon Leader in the 104th Maintenance Company. He served in numerous leadership positions as a staff officer and as a commander. Some of his previous assignments include Battalion Commander, 372nd Military Police Battalion; Deputy Director of Information Management; Director of Logistics; Commander, 74th Troop Command; and Deputy Commanding General, District of Columbia National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Schwartz recently sat down with soldiers from the 715th Public Affairs Detachment to share his thoughts on the role and future of the DC National Guard.

Q: *How special is it for you to lead the DC National Guard with its unique location and mission?*

A: This is a very special opportunity for me. The DC National Guard is unique. We are the "nation's" Guard – truly Capital Guardians. We have sent many of our members to serve abroad and have borne the cost of battle with the loss of several Guardsmen. We also support the homeland security mission. The District is a wonderful place to serve and it affords our members some unique opportunities working closely with a wide range of federal agencies. I am proud of all that we do in support of the District and the nation. We will have to work together to ensure that we have the resources and personnel we need to continue to perform in an exemplary manner.

Q: *What are some of the critical issues facing the DC National Guard?*

A: Our mission is first and foremost to support our nation during times of conflict. In order to do that we must maintain our readiness and have the soldiers necessary to support our mission. One of my priorities is making sure that our leadership places a value on training – Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) and Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC) training, professional military education and, of course, warrior/airman skills training. This is vital if we are going to maintain our readiness. Training also can have a significant impact on our ability to retain and recruit.

Q: *When the Joint Task Force concept was initiated, it was slow to be embraced throughout the National Guard. What do you believe is working well for us in the joint arena?*

A: It has not been easy to merge our Army and Air assets into a Joint Force Headquarters, but we have made huge strides toward becoming one headquarters. We continue to work through issues. We are creating a joint manning document. We are putting skill sets together so they can do the personnel, operations, logistics and all of the support elements that are needed to support the joint team as we go out to the field to do the homeland missions. We will also capitalize on the joint force teaming with joint training opportunities.

Q: *The shift of the Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force has placed significant challenges on employers who now see more of their employees deployed. What message would you want to share with employers of Guardsmen?*

Continued on page 10

Talk with the Staff of the *Capital Guardian*

Former CG Maj. Gen. Wherley reflects on his service with DC Guard and his future

By Tech. Sgt. Adrienne L. Wilson

113th Wing Public Affairs Office

Editor's note: The following is an interview with retired Maj. Gen. David F. Wherley Jr., former DC National Guard Commanding General.

Q: What did you like about the DCANG?

A: One of the things I enjoy so much about being in the DC Guard is the diversity. It's not just diversity in terms of race and gender; it's diversity in where people come from in terms of their background. We are a reflection of our community; there are a lot of people here from all over the country. When you talk to people in the DC Guard, it's amazing the number of Navy, Marines and former active duty people from other states who are now in the DC Guard. They bring different strengths and it combines the best, which I think makes us stronger. Collectively as an organization, we have a very positive attitude towards helping people achieve their personal goals and objectives.

Q: What are the most significant changes you've seen in the military during your career since receiving your commission in 1969 through the ROTC program?

A: A change that I have seen from the Air National Guard perspective is the integration of the Reserves and National Guard into the day-to-day operations of the



Photos: Tech. Sgt. William Parks, 113th Wing Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. Wherley believes the DCNG has a bright future ahead and is ready for the challenges of the future.

Wherley was frequently interviewed by local, national and international media outlets. He was always a strong advocate for the soldiers, airmen and the community.

active component. When I joined the DC Air Guard, it was more like a flying club and the inspections were pretty easy and nobody expected to use the National Guard unless WW III broke out. That was really the mentality and the Air Force made a decision in the late '70s to bring the Guard standards up to active duty and have more regular exercises together.

There have also been many tremendous improvements, obviously in technology and the way we do

Continued on page 11

Maj. Gen. Schwartz

Photo: Tech. Sgt. William Parks, 113th Wing Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. Schwartz is sworn in as Commanding General during a Change of Command ceremony at the Armory.

A: The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program (ESGR) is a vital part of our mission readiness. We are continually reaching out to employers to get them involved in understanding what we do as citizen-soldiers and airmen. Our Guardsmen play a role in this as well. It's important that they keep their employers informed of their training requirements, invite their employers to our open houses and other public events so they can see what we do. The Guard has a number of opportunities for employers to watch us in action. One of them is the Boss Lift, where we fly employers to different bases and posts. The event is often an eye-opener for employers. They walk away with a new respect and appreciation for the Guard. Anytime we can get buy-in from employers, it makes it easier for them to support their employees when they are called to federal or state service.

Q: *How important is family support to accomplishing our mission?*

A: Having the understanding and support of family is important to every member who wears the uniform – active duty, Guard or Reserve. Our families serve along with us. When the mission required me to be away, my wife was at home handling the affairs of the family. That made it easier for me to do what I needed to do.

The Guard has a rather extensive Family Readiness Program designed to help families and their Guardsmen throughout the deployment process. This type of support is very important, especially since Guard families don't always live near military installations. The Guard also has family support services, education and information to assist our Guardsmen and their families before, during and after deployments.

Q: *During the change of command ceremony, members of National Capital Region commands, District of*

Columbia government officials, and federal officials were present. How important is maintaining relationships at those levels?

A: The DC National Guard could not be successful without these relationships. As Commanding General, I must work with our DC and federal government officials to secure the resources we need to be successful. We talked just a moment ago about getting employer buy-in of the Guard. While our local and federal officials are well aware of what the Guard does, it is still critical that they understand how their decisions impact the Guard and how our mission impacts them.

One of the things we are focusing on is strategic communications, which will involve developing key messages to share with our various stakeholders. Those messages will focus on our mission, how we accomplish it, what we need to accomplish, and the value of having dedicated citizen-soldiers and airmen living and working in our communities. We, as members of the DC National Guard, must reach out and down with our messages. Each member of the DC National Guard will be armed with these messages and will be expected to share them appropriately.

The DC National Guard is unique in that the vast majority of our members live outside of the District. I want our Guardsmen to understand that we are here to support communities in which we don't live. We also have to help residents of the District to understand that as well. We are not here just a weekend a month and then head back to Maryland or Virginia, which is where the majority of Capital Guardians live. We are a part of this vibrant city.

Q: *What types of things does the DC National Guard do to support the District?*

A: The DC Guard is heavily vested in the youth of this community. We have a number of programs designed to help troubled youth as well as youth who are doing well. There is the About Face program designed to teach life skills; the Youth Challenge Institute for high school dropouts ages 16-18; the Youth Leader's Camp; Forward March for families; and Star Base, which focuses on science.

Service to community is very important to the DC National Guard. It is our obligation to support the District along with the neighborhoods in which we live. If we don't do this, what will our nation be like?

Q: *You started as an enlisted soldier. Do you think your rise through the ranks to serve as Commanding General has special meaning to enlisted personnel?*

A: My success serves as proof that the Guard affords our members the opportunity to rise to the highest levels based on their interests and skills. That is why I am so focused on training and development. Both of these will benefit our Guardsmen in and out of uniform. I guess my message for our enlisted personnel is that they can do it, too. The Guard is a great place to develop and enhance leadership and technical skills. Take advantage of all the Guard has to offer. ★

Maj. Gen. Wherley

business, but I think the most significant change is the way we treat and look after the families of the soldiers and airmen who are deployed. That is a very significant improvement throughout the Department of Defense.

Q: *What is the significance of the DC National Guard becoming joint in 2004?*

A: In the DC Guard, we've always operated jointly in support of the city. In my mind, the integration was done to support the city in an effective manner. It's a lot easier to integrate the resources. One of the things I'm most proud of was our response to Hurricane Katrina. We sent a joint formation, about 100 Army military police and 25 Air Force security forces members. The legal staff at headquarters worked with the legal staff in Louisiana so the joint formation would be deputized when they got off the airplane and they could go right to working law enforcement together. I think having jointness at the headquarters really helped, and I think it will help us as we respond to the next city.

Q: *You were the 113th Wing commander during Sept. 11. What was that like?*

A: The FAA ordered any airplane that was on the ground to remain on the ground and any plane that was airborne was ordered to land immediately and violators would be shot down. It was a chilling thought to know that it would be us doing the shooting and we could be asked to shoot down a plane with innocent civilians. I briefed each F-16 crew to ensure their safety. Before we launched an airplane, Flight 93 crashed, but we didn't know it. I think the plane crashed around 10:03 a.m. and we had our first plane airborne at 10:40 a.m. But I think it was closer to 11 a.m. that the news reported the crash. It was obviously a difficult time, but it was what we were trained to do and people were in a response mode. I could not have been more proud of our response.

Q: *What would you have done differently as commanding general?*

A: I would have spent more time visiting units training in the field and performing the mission in the field. Every time I did that, I came back with some valuable insight that would make it easier to do my job here.

Q: *What do you think the future holds for the DCNG and for the overall military?*

A: I think we're on the cusp of major transformation in the way we organize this place and part of the transformation involves cutbacks in finance. I think we're in for some tough times financially. I think functionally though, I think the world will continue to be a dangerous place and we will definitely have a requirement for a strong and effective military.



Photo: Tech. Sgt. William Parks, 113th Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Wherley and his wife, Ann, at the recent Change of Command ceremony.

Q: *What was your most memorable moment in the military?*

A: For me, the most memorable moment was seeing units off and having units deployed and coming back. In the Army, they have a formal ceremony for departure and return. And we did the same for those who deployed from the 113th Wing. Of course dealing with the death of the soldiers we lost was the most memorable moment. These were the most difficult of times during my command.

Q: *What do you plan to do in your retirement?*

A: My wife retired six months ago and she's helping me with the transition. We're looking forward to it. I'm interested in reinventing myself. My first job in the Air Force was an instructor pilot and I taught. I love teaching. I am interested in becoming an adjunct professor. I want to teach leadership and be an executive coach.

Q: *What does your family think of your retirement?*

A: My daughter is especially looking forward to it. She is hoping we will move to North Carolina. My family is excited to have more time, especially after my career in the Guard when we work so many weekends. As we look ahead to the next year or two, we are planning a trip to China. I also want to visit Australia in the future. But initially, we'll go see my daughter because she just had our first grandchild. ★



201st Airlift Squadron at your service

By Staff Sgt. Gareth Buckland

113th Wing Public Affairs

Nowhere is the concept of teamwork more important than working as a crew chief for the 201st Airlift Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. It is the 201st's duty to provide transportation for various dignitaries, including heads of state, political figures and top military officers.

The 201st Airlift Squadron's mission provides short-notice, worldwide transportation for the executive branch, members of Congress, Department of Defense officials and high-ranking U.S. and foreign dignitaries. The 201st also provides air transportation support for Air Force unit deployments and inspection teams. Additionally, its C-38A Astra aircraft can be equipped as an air ambulance when the need arises for medical emergencies such as organ transplants.

One of the major missions for the 201st, which also flies the C-40 Boeing 737, is the support of a program for congressional delegates (CODEL), where the 201st provides national and international flights in support of the delegates' governmental roles and responsibilities. Only a small team of two crew chiefs are responsible for the complete aircraft during most CODELs. This can be a huge undertaking, given the tight schedules of the passengers. Any mechanical delay can have a serious impact.

"With Congressional delegates on board, you have to step it up a notch," said Tech. Sgt. Eric Bloomer, a mechanic for the 201st Airlift Squadron. "The importance of being on time reminds you of the significance of our mission."

Bloomer and Tech. Sgt. Johnny Holmes, also of the 201st Airlift Squadron, both have nearly four decades of military aircraft maintenance experience. Their duty is to ensure that the aircraft is safe, functional, and mechanically sound. This is by no means an easy job.

Bloomer and Holmes rely on each other to guarantee the job is complete, sometimes in the most arduous conditions. At each stop during a recent CODEL trip to Afghanistan and other points around the world, they checked the entire aircraft ensuring all systems are functional and that the aircraft is prepared for the next leg of the mission.

Working as a team, they aid in refueling the aircraft, checking the hydraulics, and searching for leaks or potential problems. Other members of the maintenance team inspect the flight deck, check the flight computer and lights. Teamwork is also a key during the interaction between the crew chiefs and pilots. Important information is continually relayed to the crew chiefs from the pilots to ensure potential problems are diagnosed and rectified in a timely manner.

There are many variables a crew chief has to deal with during any given mission. Ground support available for the crew chiefs can vary widely from base to base where the



Photo: Staff Sgt. Gareth Buckland, 113th Wing Public Affairs

On Board. Tech. Sgt. Eric Bloomer, left, goes over the aircraft logs with 201st pilots Maj. Lou Campbell, center, and Lt. Col. Ralph Pisani.

201st lands its aircraft. While some stops have complete maintenance support, others are simply airstrips with little or no support. During a recent mission, the 201st experienced the two extremes of support and equipment availability. When the crew stopped in Ramstein Air Base, Germany, they were on the largest air base in Europe with support for every possible contingency. At Ashgabat airport in Turkmenistan, however, there was very limited support, a language barrier and the crew had to work in sub-zero weather.

"The crew chiefs provide a great sense of confidence to the rest of the crew," said Brig. Gen. Linda McTague, Deputy Adjutant General – Air, for the District of Columbia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters. McTague is the former commander of the 113th Wing and of the 201st, where she has also flown as a pilot. The general said the outstanding job of the 201st's maintenance team "allows the pilots to concentrate on flying."

Working closely together epitomizes the 201st reliance on team work. The teamwork carries over to the rest of the crew to include the crew chiefs, flight attendants and pilots, all interacting with each other to accomplish one goal, a safe and outstanding ride for its passengers. Many times, pilots, crew chiefs and flight attendants can be seen loading the aircraft or assisting with the service of the meals.

"With my crew, it is not about us and them, it is like a family, because we spend so much time together," Bloomer said. "Many times the pilot will be on the phone to the ground crew or have the Boeing crew stand by before we arrive at the destination. This helps us complete the task much quicker."

The 201st is a great example of the fact that success is not determined by one individual alone, but rather by how the team pulls together to complete the mission. ★

NEW ARMY UNIVERSAL PRINT GORE-TEX® OUTERWEAR

BUILT TO ENDURE THE MOST BRUTAL CONDITIONS.



Propper™ now offers the official NSN issue Universal Camouflage 2nd Generation ECWCS Parka and Trousers made with GORE-TEX® fabric.

This parka and trouser combination is constructed of strong, durable and waterproof GORE-TEX® fabric. These garments offer the only n-IR image suppression technology which is durable for the life of the garment. These garments are windproof, breathable and have a moisture-wicking barrier for maximum comfort in even the harshest conditions. **MADE IN USA**

Orders can be placed directly through Propper International Sales or GSA.

For complete ordering information contact Propper International Sales or visit www.goremilitary.com.



Propper International Sales:
Phone: 866-296-9761
Fax: 877-296-9690
Email: fwp@propper.com
Web: www.propper.com

GSA:
www.gsaadvantage.gov
GSA Contract No: GS-07F-0228M
Model No: F7462 (Parka)
Model No: F7262 (Trousers)

BATTLE TESTED

Practicing Good Medicine in Bad Places

121st Medical Air Ambulance Co. provides airlift for Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – The DC National Guard's 121st Med. Co. (Air Ambulance) participated in Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner, a two-week exercise designed to create an environment where military medical students can learn how to care for service members in harm's way and to practice good medicine in bad places.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences was established by Congress in 1972 to educate physicians, nurses and researchers to serve the needs of the military and public health care communities. Every year, fourth-year medical students, advanced practice nursing students, faculty and staff participate in this military exercise held at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., where the students put their education into practice on the battlefield.

The 121st Med. Co. not only provided air support for this exercise, but also operated as cadre and opposition forces. Medical students at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences got a healthy dose of the challenges in providing battlefield medicine during two concurrent exercises.

About 360 medical, public health and graduate-level nursing students from the Defense Department's only medical school were at the central Pennsylvania training post. They experienced the rigors of caring for patients in a simulated combat environment.

Operation Bushmaster exposes fourth-year students to the challenges of delivering medical care in support of warfighting, peacekeeping and humanitarian-assistance operations. Meanwhile, Operation Kerkesner gives many students who just completed their first year of medical school their first tactical training in a field environment.

The training wrapped up with a convoy coming under a simulated attack during a nighttime operation, resulting in mass casualties. As they triage, treat and evacuate patients, the students will come to recognize that part of being a military medical officer is the ability "to make order out of chaos," said Navy Capt. Trueman Sharp, chairman of the university's Military and Emergency Medicine Department and exercise director.

Sharp called the annual exercises the capstone of the Uniformed Services University curriculum.

"The field training aspect is essential for our students because we are more than a civilian medical school or graduate school of nursing," Sharp explained. "We produce a physician, but we are also producing a military medical officer. That requires a lot of additional knowledge and skills that you wouldn't get in a civilian medical school."

Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner merge students' classroom training, with nearly 800 hours dedicated to

military unique subjects, in a field setting with realistic scenarios like those they will encounter as Army, Navy and Air Force doctors.

This year's scenarios involved a United Nations force called in to conduct peacekeeping and stabilization operations in the fictitious Middle Eastern country of Pandakar in the throes of unrest. The doctors "deployed" as part of the force and were tasked to set-up battalion aid stations and an expeditionary medical support station with surgical capabilities until a combat support hospital arrived.

Casualties started arriving before they finished setting up their operations. The wounded "patients" – actually first-year students with realistic-looking simulated war wounds like those being seen in Iraq and Afghanistan – put the students to the test.

Increased emphasis on treating patients as quickly and as far forward as possible presents challenges traditional medical students aren't likely to encounter, from treating patients while under fire to working with far less equipment than they'd find in fixed medical facilities.

First-year students role-played patients and got a glimpse at the type of challenges they'll face later in their training. But Sharp said they also get to see firsthand what it feels like to be a wounded patient in the hands of a military doctor.

"What's going on here is pretty amazing," said Army 2nd Lt. John Francis, a first-year student at his first field exercise. Role-playing a patient with asthma earlier in the day and now with "shrapnel wounds" on his face, Francis said the exercise reinforced what he's learned so far at the university. "This brings it all together," he said. "I'm really excited about what we're getting out of this."

"This makes it real," said Navy Ensign Danielle Robins, a former Marine Corps captain with a year at Uniformed Services University under her belt. "This training defines the uniqueness of what a military medical school means."

Across the post, other first-year students were getting a better understanding of that as many got their first experience firing a weapon, navigating an orienteering course and wearing chemical protective gear after a mock attack. Many also were learning how to live and operate in the field for the first time.

Noncommissioned officers are leading the training, with Army Sgt. 1st Class Franklin Abram overseeing the training, which he said helps develop warrior skills in medical officers likely to serve on the front lines. "The bottom line is that we need doctors who can perform in the combat zone as well as the clinic," he said. "Don't think for one minute that because you are a doctor, that (enemy forces)

are not going to shoot at you.”

Air Force Maj. Glenn Burns, Operation Kerkesner course director, said the exercise teaches not only basic survival skills, but also leadership principles. “This is not a test of infantry skills, and we are not trying to develop them as infantry officers,” Burns said. “But as we teach them the basics, what we expect to challenge them with is leadership.”

Fourth-year students were facing those leadership challenges as they treated patients while rotating through a variety of roles they’ll play as medical officers, from litter bearers to logistics officers to unit commanders.

The exercise reinforces the fact that doctors are just one part of a vast medical care network, Sharp said, while underscoring their broad responsibilities as military medical officers.

“Being a medical officer isn’t just being a doctor,” he said. “It’s about leadership. It’s about planning and organization. It’s about communication. It’s about situational awareness. It’s about learning to prioritize because you never have enough resources or people, and you never have enough evacuation (capability).”

Navy Ensign Art Ambrosio got a taste of what it means to balance those challenges when casualties started arriving as he was serving as commander, overseeing the assembly of the expeditionary medical support unit. A fourth-year student, Ambrosio had to resist the urge to drop everything and rush to the patients’ needs rather than allowing his staff to do that. “As a medical person, when you see someone hurt, you want to run, and you want to play doctor,” he said.

“But as the commander, you need to focus on what those responsibilities are,” he said. “Your job is to keep the whole machine running: the medical, the transportation, the security, the communications, the logistics. You have to manage people, but do it without micromanaging.”

For some of the students, the exercises offer a return to principles they learned during prior service in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, but with a new focus.

Among them is Army 2nd Lt. Gabriel Pavey, who spent 12 years in the Marine Corps before enrolling in the



Photo: Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Air Force Staff Sgt. Lacy Johnson, a staff member at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, applies “moulage” to simulate a combat wound on Army 2nd Lt. Dan Coughlin, a first-year medical student.

Uniformed Services University. Pavey was a Marine staff sergeant working in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, and remembers the frustration of not being much help to the medics scurrying to help the wounded. He said it led to a major life decision.

Now an Army second lieutenant about to enter his second year of medical school, Pavey said he’s ready for the rigors of field medicine in a combat environment. “It’s my brothers and sisters (in the force) who really do the hard part,” he said. “We’re here to support them. The folks here all have the same call to duty.”

Army 2nd Lt. Barrett Campbell said the training he’s receiving at the Uniformed Services University is providing a great foundation for what he hopes will be a 20-year career as a military medical officer.

“I want to be a military doctor first and foremost, and this is the place to prepare for that,” he said. “I chose this school because of the military medical aspect. I wanted to be in a program that trained me for that, and that’s what I’m getting here.”

Robins said the exercise reinforces the connection she feels to her fellow Uniformed Services University students, but especially to the servicemembers she will treat as a Navy doctor. “We have a like-mindedness,” she said. “They are taking care of me, and I am taking care of them. They are amazing people, and they deserve great care.” ★



DCNG Celebrates Disabilities Awareness Month with Sgt. 1st Class Dana Bowman

Sgt. 1st Class (Retired) Dana Bowman blessed members of the DC National Guard with his story of inspiration and motivation. Bowman, who is a double amputee due to an in-air collision as a Golden Knight Parachute team member, reminded us that, "It's not the disability, it's the ability." Bowman was the first double-amputee to re-enlist in the United States Army, and since then, he has been doing all he can to continue to defy the odds and help others in similar situations.

National Night Out on the mall marks 25th anniversary

**Story and photo by
1st Lt. Loneshia Reed**

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

The District of Columbia National Guard joined in with local, federal, state officials and the sponsoring organization Target, to celebrate the 25th annual National Night Out, hosted in Washington, D.C., on the National Mall.

Families from the D.C. metropolitan area enjoyed free activities, food, face painting, vendors and musical performances. Maj. Gen. Schwartz and representatives from the Military Police, CST, Counterdrug and DCNG recruiting and retention command were all on hand, interacting and showing support to the community.

Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, DCNG Commanding General, addressed the crowd during the event along with other dignitaries including U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton. ★



District Police Chief Cathy Lanier, Prince George County Chief of Police Melvin High, Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, and the mascots for National Night Out gather during the luncheon.

Washington Nationals visit 113th Wing

Photos: Tech. Sgt. Adrienne Wilson, 113th Wing, DC Air National Guard



Washington Nationals pitcher Saul Rivera (No. 52) and bullpen coach Rick Aponte (No. 27) took time out from their season this summer to visit Lt. Col. Lance Utne, top right, and Chief Master Sgt. John Manfield, below right, of the DC National Guard's 113th Wing, 121st Fighter Squadron, where they received a tour of the F-16 Fighter operations and 24/7 Alert Mission.



 **DELTA DENTAL**

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

Available for military retirees and Retired Reserve members

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program offers all Uniformed Services retirees, including retired members of the National Guard and Reserve components, great benefits and features like:

- Affordable rates
- Full scope of coverage after 12 months
- Choice of dentists
- Opportunity to skip the waiting period by enrolling 120 days after retiring from active duty or transferring to Retired Reserve status—regardless of age!

Visit us online to learn more about this valuable dental benefits program for Uniformed Services retirees—including retired Guard and Reserve members!

www.trdp.org

(888) 838-8737



News Briefs • News Briefs

Senate confirms first four-star General in National Guard

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Air Force Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley was confirmed today as the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau by the U.S. Senate. He will also become the first four-star general in the nearly 372-year history of the National Guard.

The current director of the Air National Guard, McKinley was nominated by the President in September based on the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. He succeeds Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, who was also confirmed today by the Senate to become the first

National Guard deputy commander for the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). Blum has served as chief of the Guard Bureau since 2003.

As chief of the National Guard Bureau, McKinley will be the senior uniformed officer representing nearly 468,000 citizen-soldiers and -airmen. He will also serve as the principal advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on National Guard issues.

"I give all the credit for [this promotion] to the performance, friendships and relationships of [Blum],"

"Gen. McKinley has earned this place in history. I trust he will continue to lead the Guard to new heights."

— Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

said McKinley Sept. 22 at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) conference in Baltimore. "Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum has been a fantastic chief of the National Guard Bureau."

Gates recommended McKinley for the upgraded four-star position in July, following the recommendations of the Commission on the Guard and Reserves and the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA also established the Guard Bureau as a joint activity of the Department of Defense.

"Gen. McKinley has earned this place in history," Gates said during the NGAUS conference. "I trust he will continue to lead the Guard to new heights."

A Florida National Guard member, McKinley has served as director of the 107,000-member Air National Guard since May 2006. Prior to that, he served as assistant deputy chief of staff for plans and programs at Air Force Headquarters. He is a command pilot with more than 34 years of military service.

McKinley was promoted to brigadier general in 1998, major general in 2001 and lieutenant general in 2006. The last Air Force general to serve as Guard Bureau chief was Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, who held the position from 1998-2002. ★

Your Light In The Darkness...

The PowerFlare PF-200 LED Electronic Safety Light
Make it Part of Your Essential Safety Equipment!

- Visible to 10 Miles at Night
- Environmentally Smart
- Safer & More Economical Than Flares - It Floats!
- Dozens Of Applications From Traffic Control to LZ Kits
- 10 Flashing Patterns Including The "S-O-S" Distress Signal
- 5 Visible LED Colors To Choose From
- Also Available With Infrared LEDs for Covert Ops

FREE AGENCY TRIAL

Checkpoint Kits

Infrared

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2005

- Size: 4.25" diameter
 - Water proof • Weight 7 oz.
 - 16 super-bright LED lights and 360 coverage
 - Can Be Run Over!

Call 408-323-2370
 Toll Free 877-258-6907
 or visit www.pfdistributioncenter.com

PowerFlare

Dealer Inquires Welcome

ESGR signs Statement of Support with the National League of Cities

By 1st Lt. Loneshia Reed

Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, commander of the District of Columbia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, joined James Rebholz, the national chairman for Employee Support Guard and Reserve (ESGR), as he signed a Statement of Support with the National League of Cities, Sept. 17, 2008, in Washington, D.C. The signing was part of "National ESGR Week" declared by President Bush.

It is the mission of ESGR to ensure that upon return from deployment every soldier and airman, both Guard and Reserve, has been granted access to all reemployment rights and benefits granted to them by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). As a symbolic statement of dedication to this mission, private companies and organizations across our nation have joined with the ESGR in signing "Statements of Support" to reinforce their commitment to supporting Guard and Reserve soldiers.

"National Guardsmen and Reservists have three missions: to serve our nation abroad, to protect our nation and its borders here at home, and to serve the community in times of emergency and natural disaster. We appreciate the support given by employers that help our service members stay focused on their mission," said Maj. Gen. Schwartz.

Photo: Amanda M. Straub, National League of Cities



Maj. Gen. Schwartz looks on as Tom Bullock, left, National League of Cities executive director, and James Rebholz sign the statement of agreement.

The ceremony ended with James Rebholz presenting the National League of Cities with a commemorative plaque to be hung in a public area, so that all employees know that their organization is a supporter of all service members worldwide. ★



Yellow Ribbon Day for 276th MPs

Capt. Russell Kaufmann, left, receives awards and recognition from Maj. Roland Lane while 1st Sgt. Michael Brooks looks on during the DCNG Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in Baltimore in September. Kaufmann was injured in Iraq while serving with the 275th Military Police Company. He is making a remarkable recovery from his wounds.



PBS documentary tells story of *The Borinqueneers*

By First Lt. Loneshia Reed

JFHQ-DC Deputy PAO

The DCNG welcomed several guests to the Armory in September to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, including two extraordinary Korean War heroes and the dedicated filmmaker who helped bring their story to light.

Filmmaker Ms. Noemi Figueroa Soulet, Mr. Felton Page, National Guard Bureau director of EEO and civil rights, and Dr. Alberto Garcia and Mr. Marceleno Cruz, 65th Infantry Regiment Korean War veterans, were welcomed by Brig. Gen. Linda McTague, JFHQ-DC assistant adjutant general – Air. She opened the celebration with laughter as she

exclaimed “Hola, como estas? Mi Espanol es muy malo!” (Hello, how are you? My Spanish is very bad!)

Ms. Figueroa-Soulet volunteered her services for more than nine years to bring her dream of sharing the story of the 65th Infantry Regiment, also affectionately known as The Borinqueneers, with the world to fruition. “It is my pleasure to be here to share with you an incredible story of valor and dedication,” she said. There is no greater contribution in our society than that of our soldiers.”

Congress created the 65th Infantry Regiment as a segregated unit composed primarily of Puerto Ricans with

mostly continental officers. It went on to serve meritoriously in three wars: World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The unit was nicknamed after Borinquen, the word given to Puerto Rico by its original inhabitants, the Taino Indians, meaning “land of the brave lord.”

Soulet created the film “The Borinqueneers,” which is currently being aired on PBS, to chronicle the heroism and often tumultuous trials of the 65th Infantry Regiment. She showed the film to a packed house in the Commanding General’s conference room.

When asked about his tenure in the in the 65th, Cruz said he loves his nation, which owes him nothing. His statement embodies the selfless service and pride shown by all service members of the regiment. Their legacy should rightfully be remembered and celebrated by all. ★



BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY

Register today!
Free Laptop
with 12+ credit hours.

BU select COURSES

- ✓ Free Course Materials
- ✓ Study Online or Offline
- ✓ IA covers 100% Course Cost

Suggested Courses:

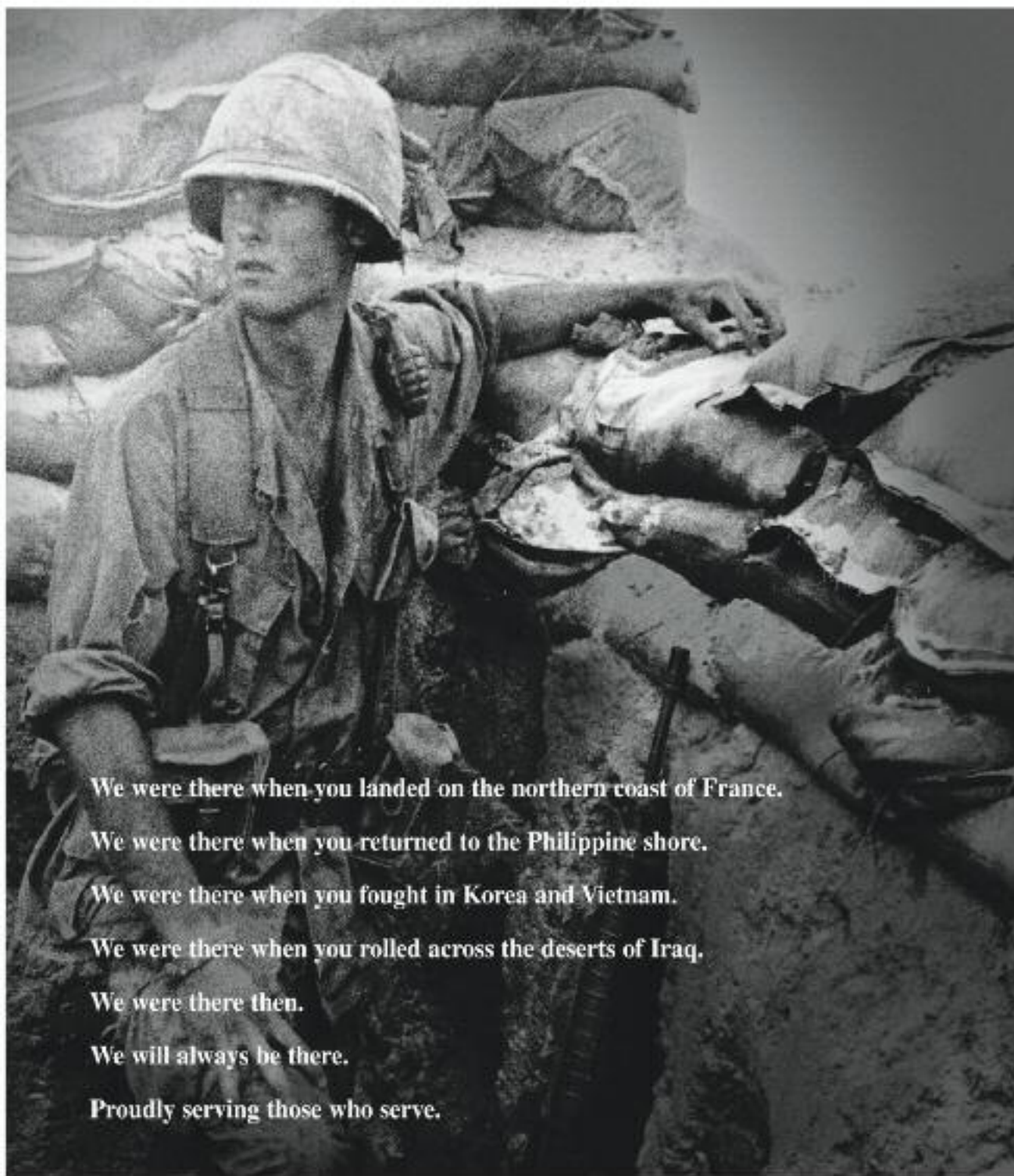
• Microsoft Office 2007	12 credits
• PC Repair & Networking	12 credits
• A+, Server+ & Security+	12 credits

Call now to get started!
866.487.4800

www.deuniv.com



The DC National Guard held a “Stone Soul” picnic of their own on the front lawn of the DC National Guard Armory August 9. This event was held as a major recruiting effort to capture the large influx of people that would be in the area attending the Stone Soul Picnic at and around RFK Stadium in Washington. All major directorates and commands came together to offer food, fun and entertainment for all in attendance.



We were there when you landed on the northern coast of France.

We were there when you returned to the Philippine shore.

We were there when you fought in Korea and Vietnam.

We were there when you rolled across the deserts of Iraq.

We were there then.

We will always be there.

Proudly serving those who serve.

1-800-MILITARY

(1-800-645-4827)

or your local GEICO office

GEICO®
geico.com

Mission Ready



- Turnkey Solution Provider
- Modular and Scalable
- All Environments/All-Hazards Capable

Kevin Loveland

Director of Army Sales

(831) 320.5808 • kl Loveland@base-x.com

Brian Dearing

Vice President Business Development/Government Relations

(540) 887.4700 • bdearing@base-x.com

- Superior Durability and Mobility
- Expeditionary Shelters
- Rugged Generator/ECU/Trailers
- Complete C2 Systems
- 24/7 Service and Support

BASE-X™

800.969.8527
www.base-x.com

Expeditionary Excellence.™

A Business Unit of
HUNTER DEFENSE TECHNOLOGIES